

Falls Church Environmental Services Council
Approved Minutes
City Hall Training Room
January 19, 2006

Present: Sam Beatty, Joe Gerrity, Richard Lawrence, Annette Mills (staff), Ida Peterson, Melissa Teates, Ralph Yatsko

Absent: Ellen Gilmore Guest: John Murphy

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Ralph Yatsko, Chair.
2. Minutes of the September 2005 were approved with minor corrections. Minutes of the December 2005 were approved as amended.
3. **Pocket Park Proposal** – Ralph asked for a change in the order of the agenda, since John Murphy was present to introduce an item that would normally come under Other Business. Members agreed to the change. Mr. Murphy presented a proposal to have the “paper streets” and unimproved right-of-ways in the City turned into pocket parks. Historically, the City has had an *ad hoc* policy of vacating such properties when abutting landowners have requested to purchase these sites. Often the sales price was \$1.00 per square foot.

Action: ESC requested Mr. Murphy to prepare an inventory of sites and put together documentation where there is a question of which areas are still streets or not. Melissa Teates will request information from Asst. City Manager, Wyatt Shields, and Open Space Chair, Barry Buschow. Melissa will review Open Space maps for areas already identified. A draft memo will be prepared for the next meeting, requesting Open Space Committee to take the lead on this proposal.

4. **Read Building Mixed Use Development** – ESC was asked to comment on the Read Building Special Exemption Application at 402 West Broad Street.

Action: Joe Gerrity will draft a memo for ESC members to review and approve prior to February 1, 2006. The memo will include the following recommendations: 1) the application must comply with Chesapeake Bay Ordinance; 2) adequate attention must be made to parking, traffic, gridlock and pollution from increased traffic; 3) formalize the commitment for green amenities, especially the green roof and rain gardens, and use the LEED building requirements. The ESC members were pleased with the developer’s intention to incorporate bicycle racks, include shared parking and his commitment to the Streetscape Design on W. Broad Street. ESC is concerned that rain gardens be appropriately sized for the site and request that the developer use the City’s approved plant list for landscaping.

5. **Special Pick up and Yard Waste** – Brenda Creel, General Manager of the Department of Environmental Services plans to report to ESC next month.

6. **Solid Waste Management** – Annette Mills will present a proposal for expanded curbside collection of recyclables to the City Council on January 30. That same evening LMI Consultants will present the first report on a proposal for variable rate solid waste collection.
7. **Electronics Recycling** – Joe Gerrity is collecting data on alternative recycling opportunities. ESC discussed possibility of new signage at Recycling Center to inform the public of the materials accepted and where other materials may be recycled. The Recycling Extravaganza is scheduled for April 29, 2006.
8. **Energy Efficiency** – The City has developed a Green Fleet policy and is contracting for bio diesel for cars. Ralph Yatsko met with Brenda Creel and Engineering Director Moe Wadda and asked that green building and LEED standards be incorporated into the City Center development.

Action: Ralph will invite Brenda Creel and Moe Wadda to ESC meetings, as appropriate. He will forward a copy of ESC priorities to work on for 2006 to Brenda and Moe.

9. **Watershed Management** - The Capital Improvement Budget includes monies for 1) bio-engineering the Pearson Branch of Tripps Run near the Scout House; 2) daylighting streams; 3) inventory of stormwater management system cleaning.
10. **Chesapeake Bay Interdepartmental Review Team** – There is a question as to how well this program is working. Research is needed to clarify the City Code and staff responsibilities.
11. **Green Roof** – Joe Gerrity is compiling information about the different technologies. ESC would like to demonstrate the technology for the City. Ida Peterson spoke to Mike Beyer at Don Beyer Volvo about participating in a green roof demonstration. Mike is interested in working with the ESC.
12. **Update Summary** – Ingrid Schultz met with the City Council to discuss the proposal to establish a Sister City relationship with Kokolopori, Democratic Republic of the Congo and George Mason High School's project to help protect the Bonobo apes. The Council was very interested in the project and asked Ingrid to present the proposal at the next Council work session. Leaf mulch deliveries start the end of January. New Neighborhood Watershed Teams are starting.
13. **Other Business** - Approved minutes are to be circulated to interested parties by the ESC Chair. Business Awards will be held January 25, 2006. Ralph will present the Environmental Stewardship Award. There will be a Boards and Commissions Fair on February 1, 2006. Melissa Teates will represent the ESC.

14. The next meeting is February 16, 2006.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ida Peterson